HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024 STATE OF HAWAII H.R. NO. 201

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS TO EXTEND THE LEASES OF THE HAWAII KAI FARMERS FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii Kai farmers were part of developer Henry Kaiser's plan when he first designed Hawaii Kai as a bedroom 2 3 community to have its own food basket and set aside 4 approximately eighty acres for farmers under lease from Kamehameha Schools / Bishop Estate (KSBE); and 5 6 WHEREAS, all the farm leases will expire in July 2025, 7 8 nearly one year from now; and 9 10 WHEREAS, most Hawaii Kai farmers in Kamilonui Valley are in their seventies and make modest incomes; and 11 12 13 WHEREAS, Hawaii Kai's farmers were recently burdened with a \$10,000 fine passed on to them from KSBE which was fined by the 14 EPA for cesspool conversion, further worsening their financial 15 situation; and 16 17 18 WHEREAS, food resiliency and agriculture are two priorities of our State Legislature, both of which our Hawaii Kai farmers 19 positively contribute to; and 20 21 WHEREAS, the expiration of these leases could put an end to 22 a portion of Hawaii Kai's initial vision as well as change the 23 identity of the community; and 24 25 26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Kai community is very concerned about 27 the future of the Hawaii Kai farmers; now, therefore, 28 29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 30 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular 31 Session of 2024, that Kamehameha Schools is urged to extend the

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leases of the farmers of Hawaii Kai for at least five more 1 2 years; and 3 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kamehameha Schools is also 5 urged to forgive the \$10,000 cesspool conversion EPA fine; and 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kamehameha Schools is asked to 7 8 meet with the community in a townhall setting to ascertain their opinion on the future of Kamilonui Valley; and 9 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 11 12 Resolution be transmitted to Kamehameha Schools and the Kamilonui Valley Farmers Association. 13 14 yny USA 15 16 OFFERED BY:

MAR - 8 2024

